EXHIBIT 1

OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES TO DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 1:

All documents reflecting action upon assets or accounts held for the benefit of or controlled by, in whole or in part, any individuals or entities listed in Attachment A. "Documents" includes without limitation: account statements, wire transfer records, checks, correspondence, and account opening documents.

RESPONSE:

Wells Fargo objects to this Request on the basis that it is a named defendant and party to this action; thus, Plaintiffs' Modified Subpoena under Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 is invalid and premature for failure to adhere to the procedures set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 34 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d). *U.S. Bank Nat. Ass'n v. Friedrichs*, No. 12cv2373–GPC(KSC), 2013 WL 371987, at *4 n.2 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 17, 2013) ("When a party to the action is simply seeking production of documents from another party, the requesting party should proceed under Rule 34, not with a subpoena pursuant to Rule 45"); *Warren v. las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dep't.*, No. 2:23-cv-00065-GMN-DJA, 2023 WL 6785815, at *8 (D. Nev. Oct. 12, 2023) (holding that plaintiff's subpoena duces tectum was improperly issued under Rule 45 because Defendant is a party to this action); *Alper v. U.S.*, 190 F.R.D. 281, 283 (D. Mass. 2000) (emphasizing that "it is apparent . . . that discovery of documents from a party, as distinct from a non-party, is not accomplished pursuant to Rule 45." (internal citations and quotation omitted)). Plaintiffs' Rule 45 Modified Subpoena is defective and void for at least three reasons.

First, Plaintiffs' Modified Subpoena under Rule 45, including their request for documents, is improper because Rule 34 governs discovery requests to named parties. *Infra* at 2 (citing several cases for the proposition that a subpoena issued under Rule 45 to a party in an action is improper). On May 20, 2024, Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint ("FAC")

On May 29, 2024, counsel for Wells Fargo accepted electronic service of the Modified Subpoena. On May 31, 2024, Plaintiffs' counsel agreed and confirmed that the Original Subpoena is not active and moot with the Modified Subpoena being the only active subpoena to Wells Fargo.

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27 28 identifying Wells Fargo as a named defendant. ECF No. 56. On May 29, 2024, after Plaintiffs' filing of the FAC, counsel for Wells Fargo accepted electronic service of the Modified Subpoena. As a named defendant, Plaintiffs must adhere to Rule 34 if they seek to serve requests for documents from a named party.

Second, Plaintiffs cannot use a subpoena to avoid the discovery rules for parties, including for example, Wells Fargo's right to respond to the Modified Subpoena within 30 days. Walters v. City of San Diego, No.: 12-CV-589-CAB-DHB, 2016 WL 8458373, at *1 n.1 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 25, 2016) ("Rule 45 subpoenas should not be used as an end-run around the Federal Rules' requirements for discovery from parties."). Plaintiffs served the Modified Subpoena on May 29, 2024 and seeks production of documents less than 30 days later on June 17, 2024.

Third, any request for documents under Rule 34 is premature based on Rule 26(d)'s requirements. Fed. R. Civ. P 26(d)(2) (requiring that early Rule 34 requests may only be served more than 21 days after the summons and complaint are served on a party); U.S. Bank Nat. Ass'n, 2013 WL 371987, at *2. On May 23, 2024, Wells Fargo executed a waiver of service of the Summons and FAC. ECF No. 60. Plaintiffs failed to allow 21 days to elapse (June 13, 2024) from the date Wells Fargo waived service of the Summons and FAC before serving any discovery. Moreover, the Court permitted Plaintiffs to conduct limited discovery of the jurisdictional defendants and to issue "subpoenas to *third-party* financial institutions"—Wells Fargo is neither. ECF No. 42. As Wells Fargo is now a party to this litigation, the Modified Subpoena is improper.

Wells Fargo objects to the Request on the basis that the phrase, "all documents reflecting action upon assets or accounts," is vague, ambiguous, and not described with reasonable particularity. Wells Fargo cannot determine the scope of documents potentially responsive to "action upon assets or accounts." See Reinsdorf v. Skechers U.S.A., Inc., 296 F.R.D. 604, 616 (C.D. Cal. 2013) (finding that a request must describe the items to be produced with "reasonable particularity," such that a party is on "reasonable notice of what is called for and what is not."); Fisher v. Felker, No. 2:07-cv-02271-PMP-GWF, 2011 WL 39124, at *5 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 5, 2011) (upholding a vagueness objection where it is unclear what documents are being requested

due to the use of ambiguous phrases in the request).

Wells Fargo objects to the Request on the basis that it is an overbroad, unduly burdensome, and not narrowly tailored or proportional to the needs of the case. The Request seeks "All documents" reflecting action upon assets or accounts "held for the benefit of or controlled by, in whole or in part," 48 different individuals and entities. Notably, not all of these individuals and entities are parties to this action, or are even owned by parties to this action, and it is unclear how documents related to these entities are relevant in this action. Attachment A to Plaintiffs' Modified Subpoena provides a list of specific bank accounts showing that only 4 entities (and no individuals) banked at Wells Fargo—Wealth Assistants LLCs, Business Financial Solutions Advisory, Pithy Productions Inc dba Fulfillable, and Precision Trading Group. It is unduly burdensome and disproportionate to require Wells Fargo to search for, and produce, responsive documents to an ambiguous request, over a two-year time period, for at least for 48 different individuals and entities, within 2.5 weeks.

Wells Fargo further objects to this Request to the extent it requests information, communications, or material that is protected by the attorney work-product doctrine or attorney-client privilege, Bank Examiner Privilege or by agency regulation, including the prohibition by the Federal Reserve Bank of the disclosure of confidential supervisory information set forth at 12 C.F.R. § 261.20, the prohibition by the OCC of the disclosure of non-public OCC information set forth at 12 C.F.R. §§ 4.31 *et seq.*, and the prohibition of the CFPB of the disclosure of confidential information set forth at 12 C.F.R. §§ 1070.40 *et seq.* This concern is further heightened as Attachment A to the Modified Subpoena references, and appears to seek, information and documents belonging to non-party individuals.

Wells Fargo further objects to the extent that this Request seeks production of confidential, business proprietary, or other non-public protected information of third parties and, thus, creates confidentiality concerns under federal and state statutes, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801-6809 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 16 C.F.R. Part 313 and California's Financial Information Privacy Act of 2005.

Wells Fargo further objects to the extent Plaintiffs are seeking discovery to investigate

1	Wells Fargo or otherwise build a case against it as an improper use of discovery. Rivera v.				
2	NIBCO, Inc, 364 F.3d 1057, 1072 (9th Cir. 2004) (finding that district courts "need not condone				
3	the use of discovery to engage in fishing expeditions.") (internal quotations and citation omitted);				
4	Price v. County of Orange, No. SACV 20-00832JVS(KESx), 2020 WL 5092915, at *5 (C.D.				
5	Cal. June 25, 2020) (denying motion to compel plaintiff's request for production of documents				
6	during the pleading phase) (citing to Riley v. Modesto Irrigation Dist., No. 1:10-CV-02281-				
7	AWI-GS, 2011 WL 5828195, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 18, 2011) ("[L]itigants are not permitted to				
8	'unlock the doors of discovery armed with nothing more than conclusions.").				
9	Wells Fargo will not produce the materials requested on the basis of its objections, but				
0	will consider a narrowed, and clarified request by Plaintiffs at the appropriate time and as				
1	permitted under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.				
2					
3	DATED: June 12, 2024 MCGUIREWOODS LLP				
4					
5	By: /e/ Anthony Q. Le Anthony Q. Le (SBN 300660)				
6	Alexandra L. Hider (SBN 340660) 1800 Century Park East				
7	8th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067-1501				
8	Telephone: 310.315.8200 Facsimile: 310.315.8210				
9	ale@mcguirewoods.com ahider@mcguirewoods.com				
20	Jarrod D. Shaw (pro hac vice forthcoming)				
21	Tower Two-Sixty, Suite 1800 Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3142				
22	Telephone: 412.667.6000 Facsimile: 412.667.6050				
23	jshaw@mcguirewoods.com				
24	Attorneys for Defendant Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.				
25					
26					
27					
$_{28}$					

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is McGuireWoods, LLC, Wells Fargo Center, South Tower, 355 S. Grand Ave., Suite 4200, Los Angeles, CA 90071-3103.

On June 12, 2024, I served the following document(s) described as **DEFENDANT WELLS FARGO BANK**, **N.A.'S OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' MAY 29, 2024 SUBPOENA** on the interested parties in this action by placing true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

8 Nico Banks, Esq. Richard A. Nervig, Esq. Richard Nervig Law Offices, PC Banks Law Office 9 501 West Broadway, Suite 800 712 H. St. NE, Unit #8571 Washington, DC 20002 San Diego, CA 92101 10 971-678-0036 760-390-2181 Email: Nico@bankslawoffice.com Email: richard@nerviglaw.com 11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Attorneys for Plaintiffs 12

- BY MAIL: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Under that practice, it would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business. Such envelope(s) were placed for collection and mailing with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, CA, on that same day following ordinary business practices. (C.C.P. § 1013 (a) and 1013a(3))
- BY E-MAIL: By electronic mail transmission pursuant to an agreement between parties, from csulkerhall@mcguirewoods.com, by transmitting a PDF format copy of such document(s) to the email address listed above.
- BY EXPRESS MAIL: I deposited such document(s) in a box or other facility regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service, in an envelope or package designated by the United States Postal Service with delivery fees paid or provided for, addressed to the person(s) served hereunder. (C.C.P. § 1013(d)(e))

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 12, 2024, at Los Angeles, CA.

Lonnie Sulker-Hall
Connie Sulker-Hall

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EXHIBIT 2

From: Gettings, Dave

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 4:26 PM

To: Nico Banks; Lowe, Michael S.; Lynch, John C.

Cc: richard nerviglaw.com

Subject: RE: Fwd:

Nico,

I spoke with my client this week. My client is willing to provide the wire documentation you requested in our meet and confers. The only caveat is that they are still gathering the statements and do not know the full volume yet. If the volume is reasonable, then we will not have any issues producing the statements and the wire documentation. If the volume turns out to be very large, then you and I will have to discuss whether there is a reasonable limitation we can reach. But we are willing to provide both the statements and the wire information in concept. I think the agreement should obviate the need for a motion, but please advise.

We are starting to receive the statements, so I expect we can start a rolling production soon. The holiday week may slow it down slightly on the client's end.

Thanks, Dave

Dave Gettings

Partner

troutman pepper

Direct: 757.687.7747 | Mobile: 845.893.0182 | Internal: 17-7747

dave.gettings@troutman.com

From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:27 AM

To: Gettings, Dave < Dave.Gettings@troutman.com>; Lowe, Michael S. < Michael.Lowe@troutman.com>; Lynch, John C.

<john.lynch@troutman.com>

Cc: richard nerviglaw.com < richard@nerviglaw.com >

Subject: Fwd:

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This email constitutes service of the attached Order denying the motion to quash as it relates to Wells Fargo.

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 10 of 24 Page ID #:1957

I understand your position that you are still consulting with your client about the subpoena, but respectfully, it is not reasonable for Wells Fargo to take a month and a half to decide what account documents it can produce in response to this urgent subpoena for routinely produced account documents. Accordingly, I intend to file a motion to compel by the end of the day tomorrow. I know I've said that a couple of times before, and each time, I've postponed filing the motion when Wells Fargo has reassured me that it is still working on making a reasonable proposal for producing documents. I can't put it off again; we always want to resolve discovery disputes without motion practice if we can, but Wells Fargo's delay is unreasonable and highly prejudicial to my clients.

Best,

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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----- Forwarded message ------

From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com >

Date: Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 10:48 PM

Subject:

To: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com>

EXHIBIT 3

From: Nico Banks <nico@bankslawoffice.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 6:16 AM

To: Gettings, Dave

Cc: Lowe, Michael S.; Lynch, John C.; richard nerviglaw.com

Subject: Re: Fwd:

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We'd also talked about records for checks (those are also records that other banks seems to be able to produce easily as part of a streamlined account-documents-production process). Please let me know Wells Fargo's position on the checks too.

Thanks,

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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On Wed, Jul 3, 2024 at 9:13 AM Nico Banks < <u>nico@bankslawoffice.com</u>> wrote: Thanks.

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 13 of 24 Page ID #:1960

This is the first I've heard that gathering and producing account statements or wire transfers could be a burdensome process for Wells Fargo. Other banks have been able to produce those documents quickly and easily, even for many accounts; it seems like banks have streamlined that process because account statements and wire transfer documents are requested so frequently. Can you help me understand why the subpoena is (or could be) burdensome for Wells Fargo?

Also, please let me know your position on producing relevant transaction information for the third-party agents (such as payment processors, like Stripe) that Wells Fargo supervises.

So long as Wells Fargo can provide a reasonable explanation for why producing account statements and wire transfer documents is burdensome in this case and could therefore require a rolling production -- and so long as Wells Fargo is willing to produce the third-party-agent documents -- we don't need to file a motion to compel.

Th	an	ks,
----	----	-----

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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On Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 7:26 PM Gettings, Dave < Dave. Gettings@troutman.com > wrote:

Nico,

I spoke with my client this week. My client is willing to provide the wire documentation you requested in our meet and confers. The only caveat is that they are still gathering the statements and do not know the full volume yet. If the volume is reasonable, then we will not have any issues producing the statements and the wire documentation. If the

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 14 of 24 Page ID #:1961

volume turns out to be very large, then you and I will have to discuss whether there is a reasonable limitation we can reach. But we are willing to provide both the statements and the wire information in concept. I think the agreement should obviate the need for a motion, but please advise.

We are starting to receive the statements, so I expect we can start a rolling production soon. The holiday week may slow it down slightly on the client's end.

Thanks,

Dave Gettings

Partner

troutman pepper

Direct: 757.687.7747 | Mobile: 845.893.0182 | Internal: 17-7747

dave.gettings@troutman.com

From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com >

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:27 AM

To: Gettings, Dave < Dave.Gettings@troutman.com >; Lowe, Michael S. < Michael.Lowe@troutman.com >; Lynch, John

C. <john.lynch@troutman.com>

Cc: richard nerviglaw.com < richard@nerviglaw.com>

Subject: Fwd:

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I understand your position that you are still consulting with your client about the subpoena, but respectfully, it is not reasonable for Wells Fargo to take a month and a half to decide what account documents it can produce

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 15 of 24 Page ID #:1962

in response to this urgent subpoena for routinely produced account documents. Accordingly, I intend to file a motion to compel by the end of the day tomorrow. I know I've said that a couple of times before, and each time, I've postponed filing the motion when Wells Fargo has reassured me that it is still working on making a reasonable proposal for producing documents. I can't put it off again; we always want to resolve discovery disputes without motion practice if we can, but Wells Fargo's delay is unreasonable and highly prejudicial to my clients.

Best,

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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----- Forwarded message ------

From: Nico Banks <nico@bankslawoffice.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 10:48 PM

Subject:

To: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com >

https://ecf.cacd.uscourts.gov/doc1/031142743551

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EXHIBIT 4

From: Nico Banks <nico@bankslawoffice.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 8:18 AM

To: Gettings, Dave

Cc:Lowe, Michael S.; Lynch, John C.; richard nerviglaw.comSubject:Re: Wealth Assistants | Intent to amend complaint

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Dave,

Thank you. I filed it.

Best,

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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On Mon, Jul 15, 2024 at 6:33 PM Gettings, Dave < Dave. Gettings@troutman.com > wrote:

Thanks Nico. Here are minor proposed redlines. You have our consent to file.
Thanks,
Dave
Dave Gettings Partner troutman pepper
Direct: 757.687.7747 Mobile: 845.893.0182 Internal: 17-7747 dave.gettings@troutman.com
From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com > Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 2:22 PM To: Gettings, Dave < Dave.Gettings@troutman.com >
Cc: Lowe, Michael S. < <u>Michael.Lowe@troutman.com</u> >; Lynch, John C. < <u>john.lynch@troutman.com</u> >; richard nerviglaw.com < <u>richard@nerviglaw.com</u> >
Subject: Re: Wealth Assistants Intent to amend complaint
CAUTION: This message came from outside the firm. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender (look at the actual email address) and confirm the content is safe.
Thanks. Here's the proposed stipulation and proposed order.
Best,
Nico Banks, Esq.
Banks Law Office, P.C.
Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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On Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 6:11 PM Gettings, Dave Cave.Gettings@troutman.com wrote:

Nico,

We will agree to the proposed stipulation staying Wells Fargo's responsive pleading deadline pending your forthcoming Amended Complaint. Would you like to send it over for our review?

Thanks, Dave

Dave Gettings

Partner

troutman pepper

Direct: 757.687.7747 | Mobile: 845.893.0182 | Internal: 17-7747

dave.gettings@troutman.com

From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 9:42 AM

To: Gettings, Dave < Dave. Gettings@troutman.com>

Cc: Lowe, Michael S. < Michael S. < Michael S. < Michael S. < Michael.Lowe@troutman.com; richard

nerviglaw.com < richard@nerviglaw.com >

Subject: Re: Wealth Assistants | Intent to amend complaint

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Yes, that's the stipulation I'm proposing.

Thanks,

Nico Banks, Esq. Banks Law Office, P.C. Pronouns: he/him Tel.: 971-678-0036 712 H St NE, Unit #8571, Washington, DC 20002

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On Sun, Jul 7, 2024 at 8:45 PM Gettings, Dave < Dave.Gettings@troutman.com > wrote:

Nico,

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 22 of 24 Page ID #:1969

Thanks. So is your proposed stipulation a stay on the responsive pleading deadline until some time after you amer	าด
the complaint, along with a proposed deadline for you to file an amended complaint? I understand you may need	
some flexibility based on the data you are gathering.	

Thanks,

Dave

Dave Gettings

Partner

troutman pepper

Direct: 757.687.7747 | Mobile: 845.893.0182 | Internal: 17-7747

dave.gettings@troutman.com

From: Nico Banks < nico@bankslawoffice.com >

Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2024 12:57 PM

To: Gettings, Dave < <u>Dave.Gettings@troutman.com</u>>; Lowe, Michael S. < <u>Michael.Lowe@troutman.com</u>>; Lynch, John

C. <john.lynch@troutman.com>

Cc: richard <u>nerviglaw.com</u> < <u>richard@nerviglaw.com</u>> **Subject:** Wealth Assistants | Intent to amend complaint

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Hi all,

I wanted to give you a heads up that, based on some third-party documents we've received, we intend to amend our complaint again. The amended complaint will add both new defendants, and new allegations about the existing defendants. Accordingly, I think it would be most efficient to wait to file a responsive pleading until after we've amended the complaint. We'd be happy to stipulate to an extension.

Case 2:24-cv-02886-WLH-SK Document 113-2 Filed 08/07/24 Page 23 of 24 Page ID #:1970

We're still investigating some of the entities and individuals that we plan to add as defendants, so we'll wait to amend the complaint for another six weeks or so.

The additional defendants will include Mercury, the payment processor. The additional allegations will also include more details about Wealth Assistants' alleged payment processing scheme that we've learned from third-party discovery. For example, the transactions make it clear that there weren't clear distinctions between many of the defendants. Wire transfers to an account purportedly owned by the entity defendant "Precision Trading" are sometimes recorded as wire transfers to the individual defendant Max Day, for example.

Since the transactional data is illuminating, I think it also makes sense for us to wait to finalize the amended complaint until we've received at least the low-hanging-fruit discovery (the account statements, wire transfers, and third-party-agent/payment-processor transaction data) from Thread Bank, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and JP Morgan (four of the banks with the largest accounts controlled by defendants). That shouldn't take more than six weeks or so.

Thanks,

Nico Banks, Esq.

Banks Law Office, P.C.

Pronouns: he/him

Tel.: 971-678-0036

712 H St NE,

Unit #8571,

Washington, DC 20002

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